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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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August 31, 2001

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Tenth & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear General Ashcroft:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Government Reform is holding a hearing entitled "The Need for Congressional Oversight of the Justice Department." The hearing is scheduled for September 13, 2001, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building at 1:00 p.m. I would like to invite you to testify at this hearing.

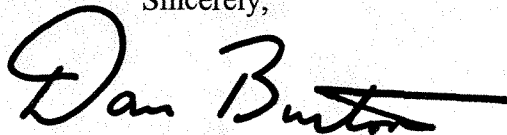
The Committee will inquire about the Justice Department's new policy to refuse to provide to Congress deliberative documents pertaining to criminal investigations. As I expressed to you in my August 29, 2001, letter, I believe that this new policy will, in some cases, make Congressional oversight of the Justice Department impossible. The Committee will ask you to provide further information regarding your new policy, including, but not limited to:

- What precedent exists for the Department's policy;
- Whether there is any legal or prudential support for your policy;
- Whether previous Administrations have reached accommodations with Congress over the types of documents under consideration; and
- What impact the policy will have on Congressional oversight of the Justice Department.

If you wish to make an opening statement, it is requested that you provide 100 copies of your written testimony to the Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the time of the hearing. To facilitate printing of the hearing record, you should also provide a computer disk containing a copy of your written testimony. At the hearing, we ask you to summarize your testimony in five minutes to allow the maximum time for discussion and questions.

Under the Congressional Accountability Act, the House of Representatives must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons requiring special accommodations should contact Robert Briggs at (202) 225-5074 at least four days prior to the hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Burton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Dan Burton
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Minority Member